LEMCOTEC Workshop for the Aeronautics Industry

Potsdam, Germany, December 6th, 2016

A Search for the “ULTIMATE” Aero- Engine

Carlos Xisto, Tomas Grönstedt

The ULTIMATE project is funded by the European Union H2020 programme under GA no. 633436.

Ultra Low emission Technology Innovations for Mid-century Aircraft Turbine Engines

Exploring synergistic combinations of radical core technologies

- **Call:** MG-1.5-2014 - Breakthrough innovation for European Aviation
- **Budget:** EUR 3,138,121.88 (100% financed by the EU)
- **Duration:** 36 months, September 2015 – August 2018
- **Consortium:** 10 partners (4 Universities, 4 Industries, 1 research institute and 1 technology management company)
- **Coordination:** Chalmers University of Technology

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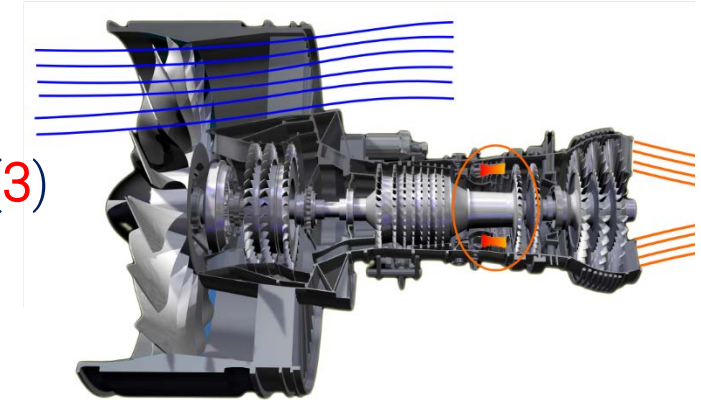
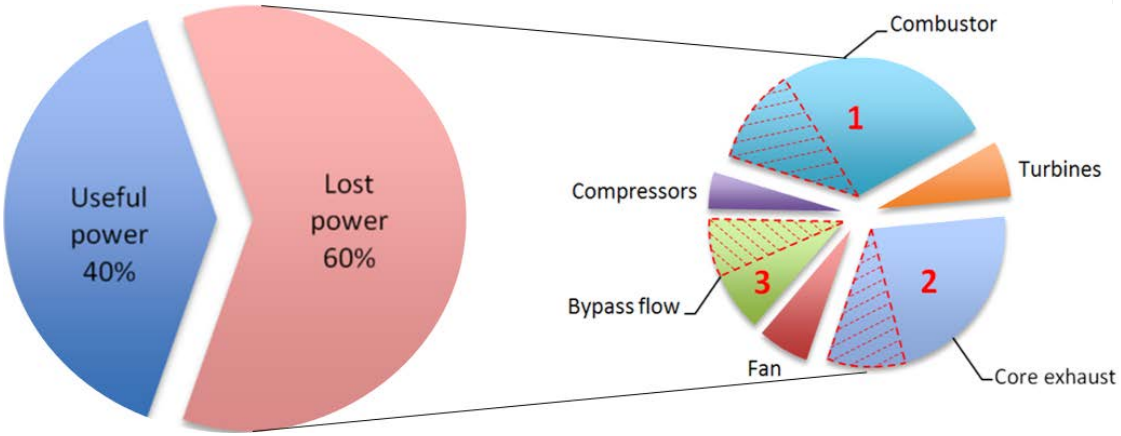
Project Goals

Losses in a 2015 state-of-the-art Turbofan

ULTIMATE will attack the major loss sources “the Big Three”

- Combustor irreversibilities (1)
- Core exhaust heat losses (2)
- Excess of kinetic energy in the bypass flow (3)





“Exergy, denoted ε, of a steady stream of matter is equal to the maximum amount of work obtainable when the stream is brought from its initial state to a state of thermal and mechanical equilibrium with its environment”

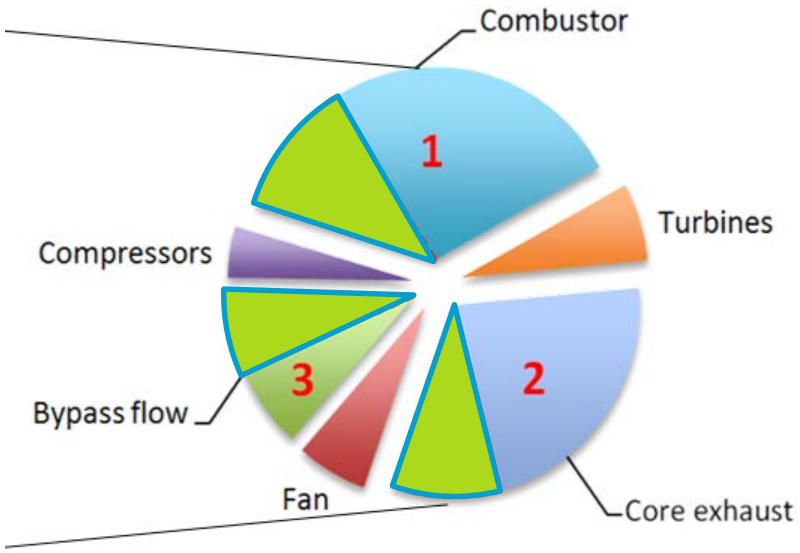
The red cross-hatched areas may be captured –HOW?

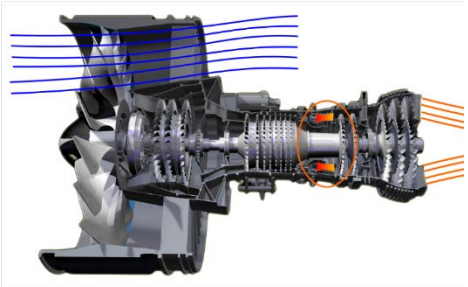
Grönstedt, T., Irannezhad, M., Lei, X., Thulin, O., Lundbladh, A., “First and second law analysis of future aircraft engines”.Journal of Engineering for Gas Turbines and Power”,136 (3), 2014

Project Goals

Exploring synergistic combinations of radical core technologies

- Constant volume type combustion
- Intercooling & Recuperation
- Bottoming cycles
- Advanced low pressure system technology



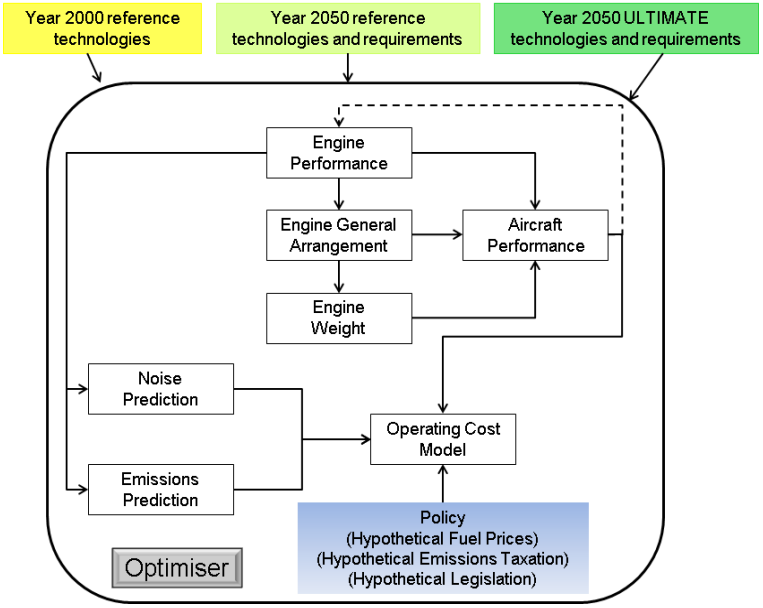


....together with advanced tube and wing configuration

Concept and Approach

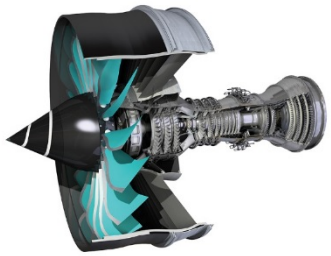
Exploring synergistic combinations of radical core technologies

- **Combine and exploit** synergies between radical technologies
- **Attack** all three major sources simultaneously
- **Incorporate** the new powerplants into an Advanced Tube and wing aircraft (TRL1)
- **Create and exploit** multidisciplinary evaluation platform (**TERA 2050**) for powerplant development and optimization



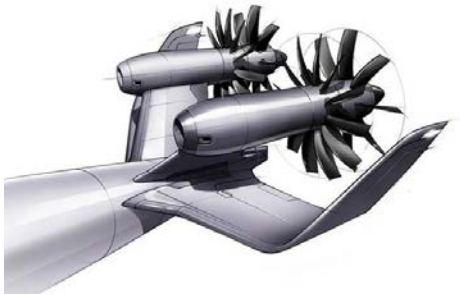
Concept and Approach

Starting point!



Powerplant for intercontinental configuration (*architecture illustrated by Rolls-Royce UltraFan for 2025*)

- Technology assumptions for 2050
  - Turbomachinery efficiency;
  - High Pressure Turbine Temperature Capabilities;
  - Characterization of Heat exchangers;
  - Weight estimation and structural considerations
  - Reference cycles

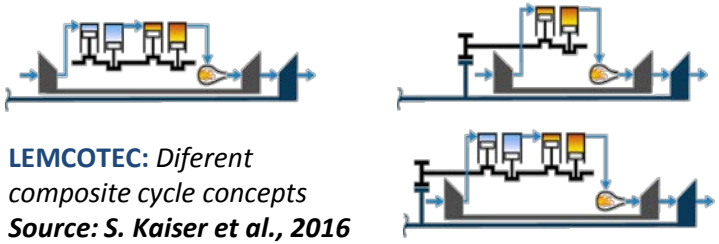


Intra-European configuration

Combustor Irreversebility

Attack loss source #1

- Piston based composite cycles

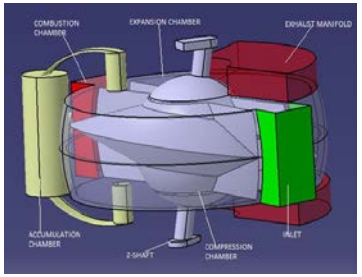


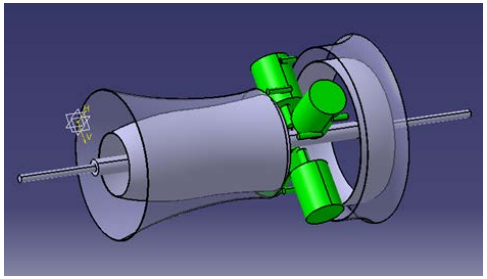
LEMCOTEC: *Diferent composite cycle concepts*
Source: S. Kaiser et al., 2016

MTU Aero Engines Bauhaus Luftfahrt Neue Wege.

S. Kaiser et al "Composite Cycle Engine Concept with Hectopressure Ratio". Accepted for publication in AIAA Jounal of Propulsion and Power

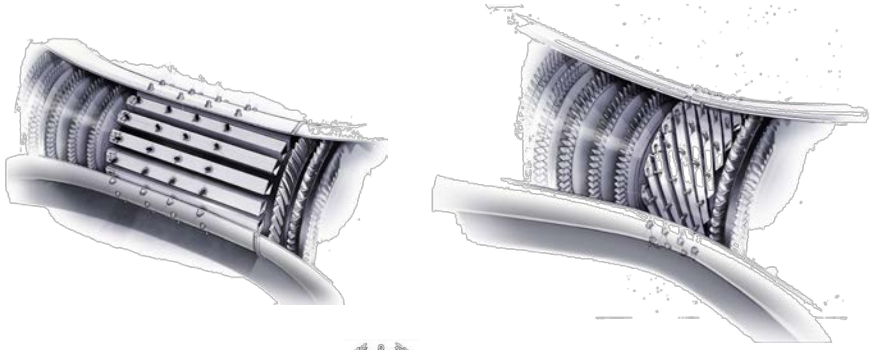
- Nutating disc composite cycles





Cranfield Aerospace Rolls-Royce

- Pulse detonation combustion



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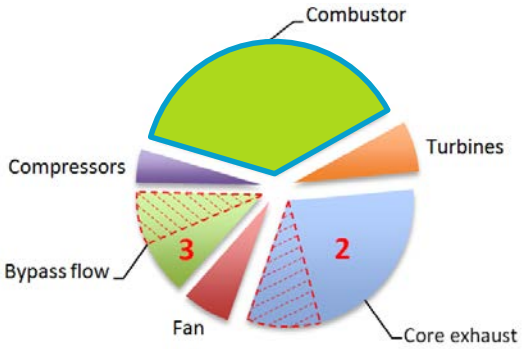
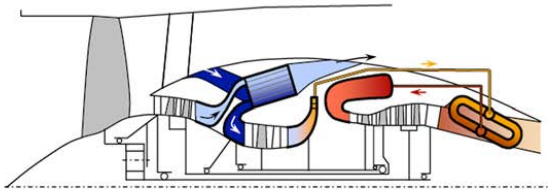
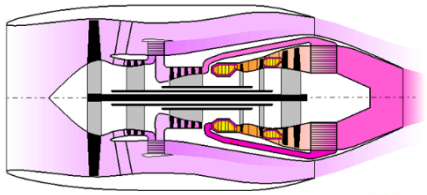


Core exhaust heat losses

Attack loss source #2

- IC/Recuperation, with inter turbine burning

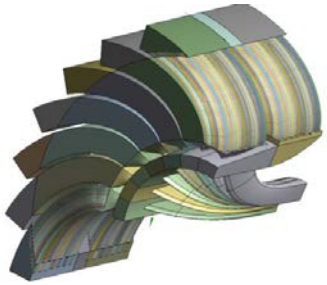




LEMCOTEC: *MTU concept for IRA engine*

Goulas, A., Donnerhack, S., Flouros, M., Missirlis, D., Vlahostergios, Z. and Yakinthos, K. "Thermodynamics cycle analysis, pressure loss and heat transfer assessment of a recuperative system for aero engines", Journal of Engineering for Gas Turbines and Power, Vol. 137, 041205-1, (2015).

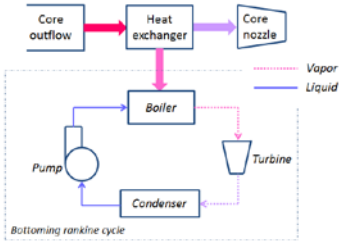
- Intercooling

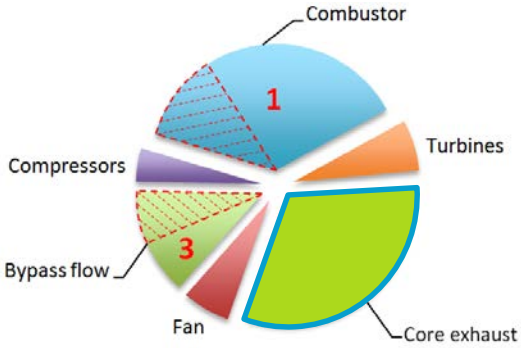


LEMCOTEC: *Involute spiral arrangement of IC for space optimization*
Source: Zhao et al., 2015

X. Zhao and T. Grönstedt, "Conceptual design of a two-pass cross-flow aeroengine intercooler," Proc IMechE Part G: J Aerospace Engineering, vol. 229, no. 11, pp. 2006-2023, 2015

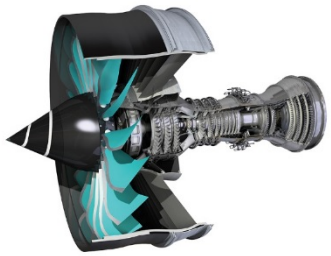
- Bottoming cycle





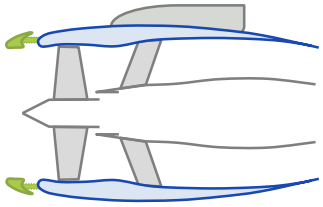
Excess of Kinetic Energy

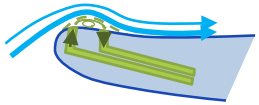
Attack loss source #3



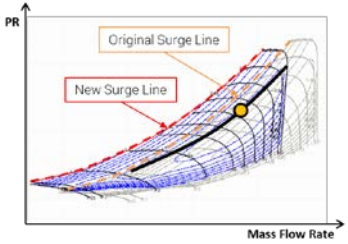
Powerplant for intercontinental configuration (*architecture illustrated by Rolls-Royce UltraFan for 2025*)

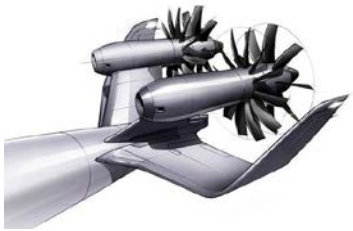
- Ultra-slim nacelle enabling tech.





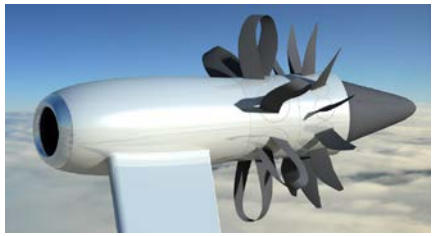
- Variable pitch fan & area nozzle



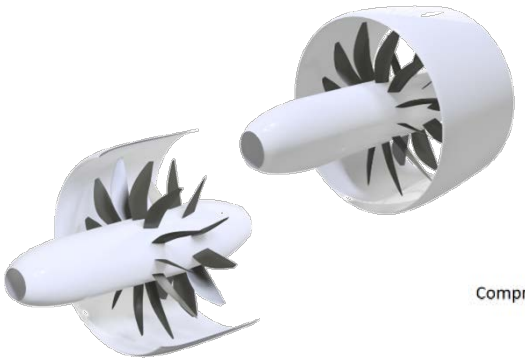


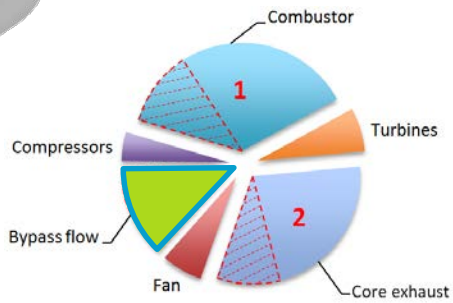
Intra-European configuration

- Boxprop



- Retractable nacelle





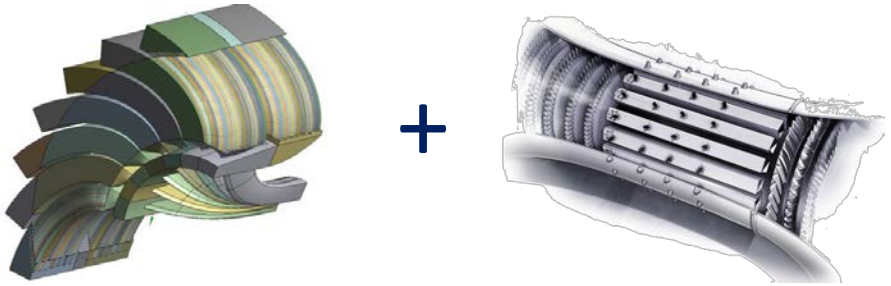
Combinations!

Combinations

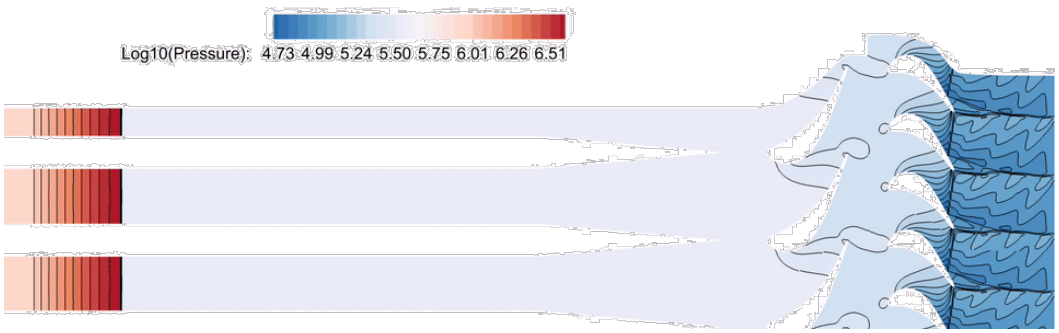
Intercooled Pulse Detonation Core

Opportunities

- Pressure rise combustion
- Reduction of combustor irreversibility
- Reduced risk of auto-ignition at higher OPR
- Higher combustion pressure ratio with IC



IC-PDC vs 2050 Turbofan
-11.0% SFC



Challenges

- Compatibility between HPT and PDC flow
- NOx emissions
- Design of cooling system
- Noise

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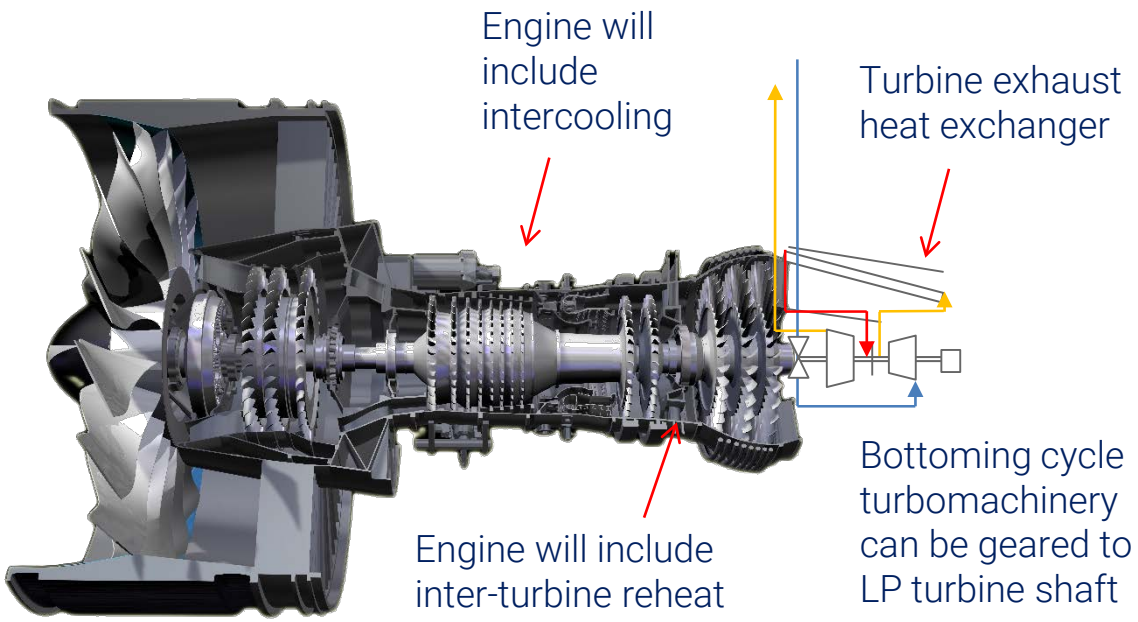
Combinations

Intercooled cycle with Inter-turbine burning and a supercritical CO_2 (S-CO_2) bottoming cycle

Opportunities

- Will allow considerably smaller and simultaneously more efficient cores
- Lowered NO_x and CO_2 emissions due to smaller fuel mass flows.
- The main heat exchanger behind the LPT may reduce noise emissions of the core jet.



Challenges

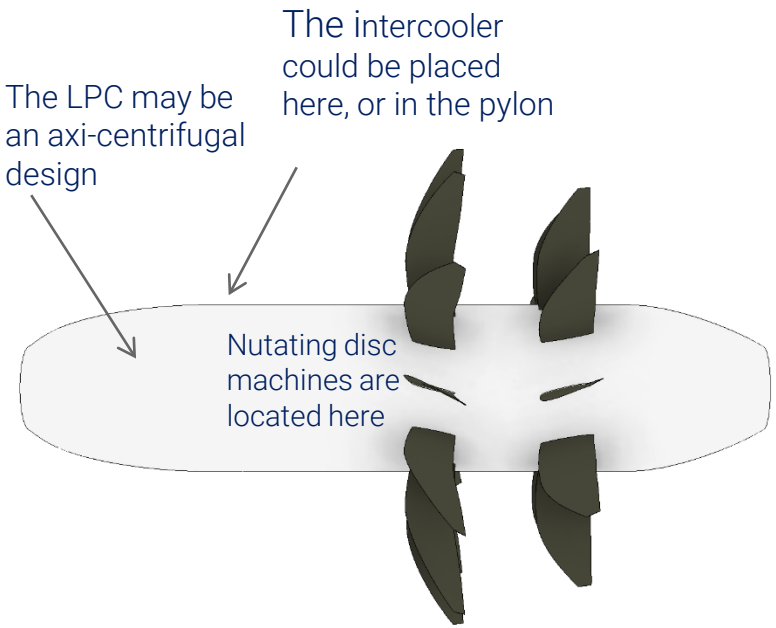
- Accurate simulation of thermal behavior of S-CO_2 heat exchangers
- Realistic prediction of S-CO_2 turbomachinery Off-Design
- Weight estimation of several components

Combinations

Open-Rotor with nutating disc topping

Opportunities

- The relatively higher power density leads to a reduced weight penalty as opposed to Piston combined cycles.
- Supposed reduced NOx emissions due to low residence times in the combustion chamber.
- Reduced combustion irreversibility and pressure rise combustion

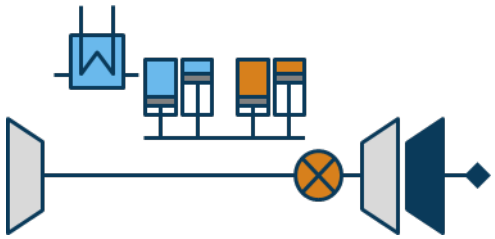


Challenges

- Accurate simulation of boosted nutating disk engine design point and off-design point performance
- Accurate estimation of the overall weight.
- Accurate prediction of the heat release in the combustion chamber at design and off-design conditions

Combinations

Intercooled Piston Composite Cycle (with inter-turbine recuperation)



Intercooled CCE vs baseline 2050 Turbofan
+3.7% weight | -12.6% TSFC | -17.5% fuel burn

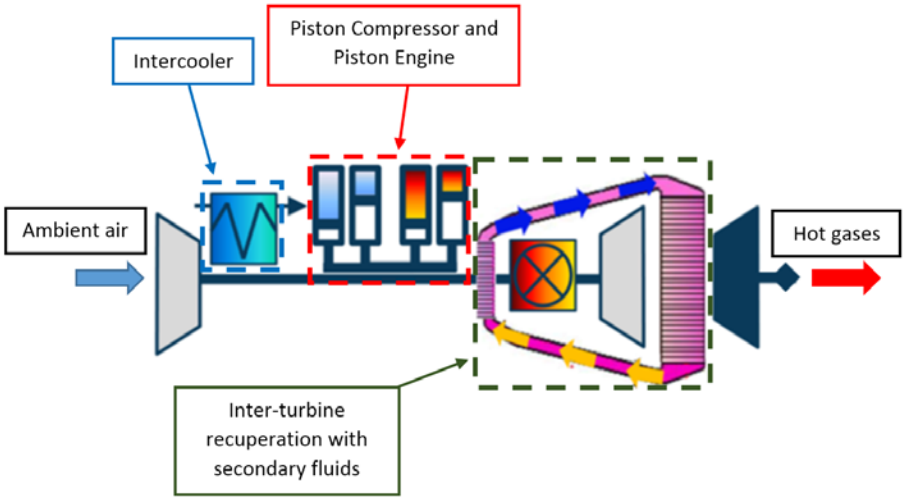
Opportunities

- Pressure rise combustion
- Reduction of combustor irreversibility
- Improves volumetric efficiency
- Reduces piston system weight considerably

Challenges

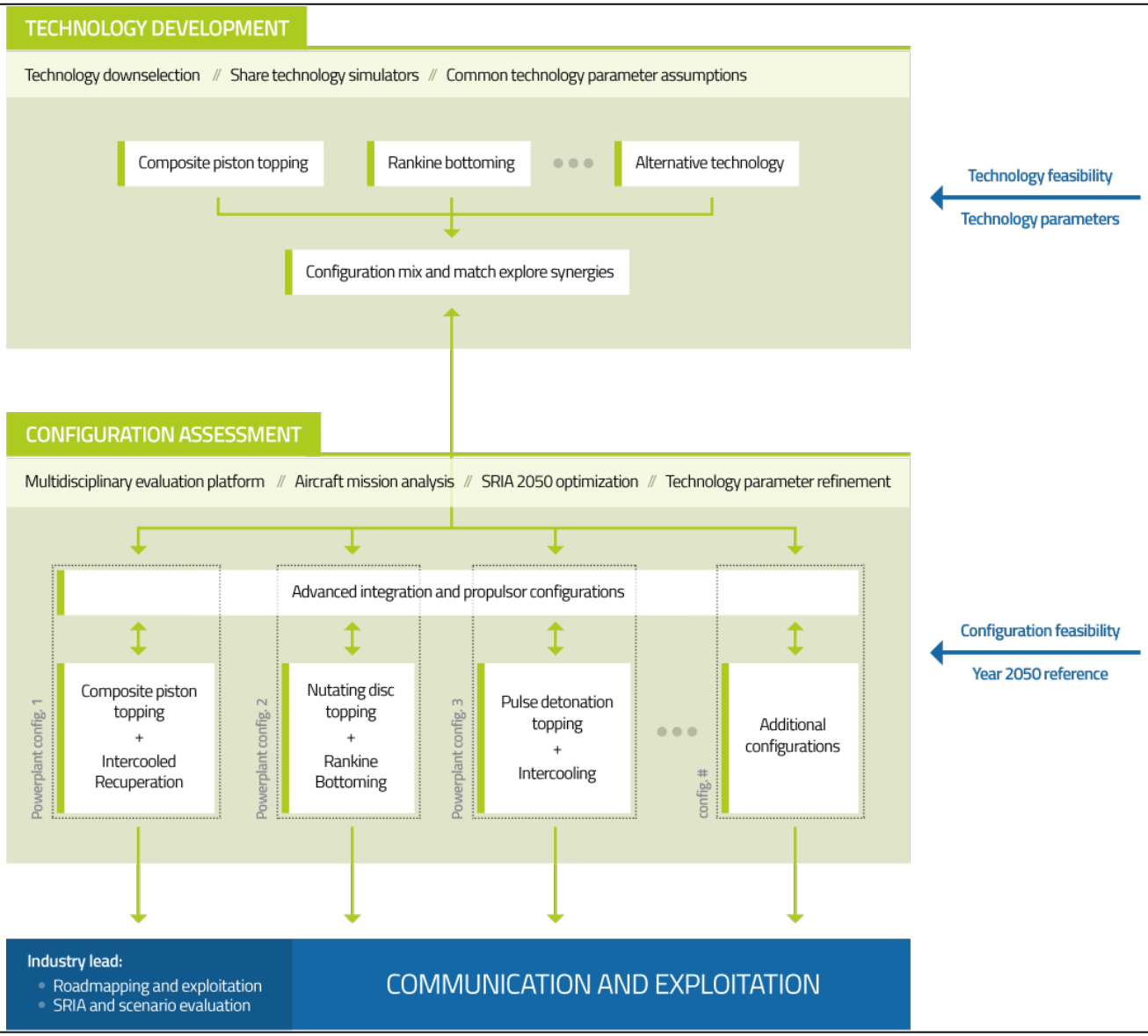
- Demanding operating conditions for the piston system
- Conceptual design of intercoolers (limited space)
- Incorporation of recuperation in the design space

Potential synergistic combination of the CCE with recuperation

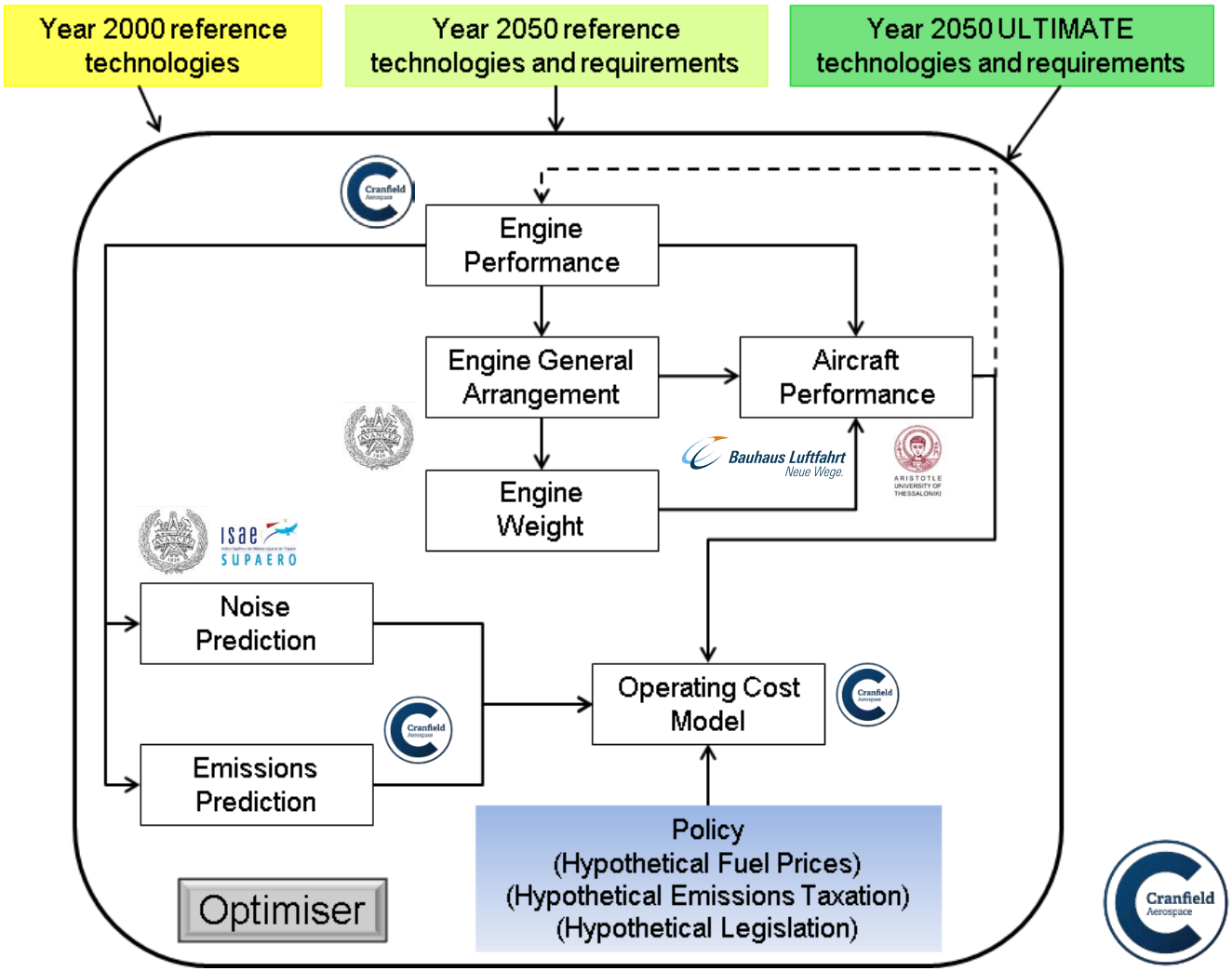


Scientific Approach

- **Development**
  partially qualitative selection
- **Optimization**
  towards the SRIA 2050 targets
- **Exploitation**



Techno-Economic Risk Assessment platform for ULTIMATE



The race is on - Ultimating

The Champ (s)!

Fly longer and better!

- Fly longer (!) with the best score.
- Industry input will **support our "scoring"** of concepts.
- Technical feasibility
  - How likely is a concept to fly?
  - NOx, CO2, Noise
  - Methods for assessment
- Support on technology roadmapping

The Consortium

4 Universities, **4** Industries, **1** Research Institute and **1** SME

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ARTTIC
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

Cranfield Aerospace

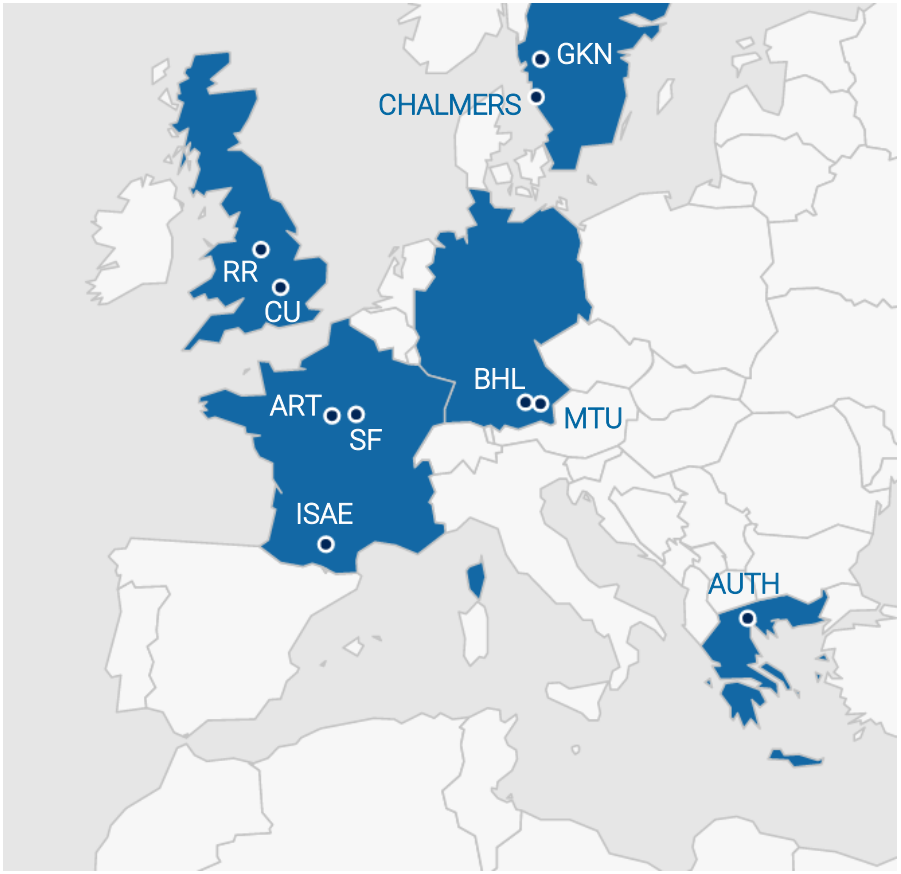
Bauhaus Luftfahrt
Neue Wege.

isae
Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace
SUPAERO

SAFRAN

Rolls-Royce

MTU Aero Engines



Thank you!